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CIA/RR CB 65-20
March 1965

Copy No. 245

INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

MERCHANT SHIPPING TO NORTH VIETNAM IN 1964

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE
Office of Research and Reports

MORI/CDF

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MERCHANT SHIPPING TO NORTH VIETNAM IN 1964

1. Vessels Involved, by Flag

An analysis of foreign-flag merchant shipping to North Vietnam reveals that at least 580 arrivals were made by foreign-flag ships at North Vietnamese ports in 1964. A detailed breakdown, by flag, of ship arrivals at North Vietnamese ports is shown in Table 1.

Table 1

North Vietnam: Foreign-Flag Ship Arrivals by Flag 1964

Flag	Number of Arrivals
Total	580
Free World a/	402
Denmark	1
Finland	1
France	1
Greece	35
Indonesia	1
Italy	11
Japan	74
Lebanon	20
Liberia	7
Netherlands	8
Norway	43
Panama	12
Sweden	3
United Kingdom	177
West Germany	8
USSR	48
European Satellites	58
Bulgaria	2
Czechoslovakia	7
East Germany	1
Poland	48
Communist China	72

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Ships flying Free World flags accounted for 69 percent of the arrivals observed in 1964. The lion's share of these arrivals was accounted for by British-flag shipping, which with 177 arrivals matched almost equally the 178 made by ships flying Communist flags. Other Free World countries with vessels in the North Vietnamese trade included Japan with 74 arrivals, Norway with 43, and Greece with 35. These four flags accounted for 82 percent of the Free World arrivals and about 57 percent of the total ship arrivals observed during the year.

Shipping under the Chinese Communist flag, with 72 arrivals during the year, accounted for 40 percent of the total made by ships from Communist countries. The other major Communist-flag ships in the trade were the USSR and Poland, each with 48 arrivals.

2. Ports of Arrival

Although a precise division of ship arrivals by port of arrival cannot be made at this time, it is estimated that at least 425 of the 580 arrivals were made at the port of Haiphong. The remaining arrivals were made almost entirely at the coal-exporting ports of Cam Pha and Hon Gay. An undetermined number of ships did, of course, call at more than one port, usually offloading at Haiphong and then proceeding to one of the coal-exporting ports. A breakdown by flag of the estimated arrivals at Haiphong is shown in Table 2.

Almost two-thirds of the Free World ships called at Haiphong as their first port of call. Bloc ships, on the other hand, almost invariably made Haiphong their first port of call -- some 174 of the total of 178 Bloc arrivals, or 98 percent, being made first at this port.

3. Cargo Moved

Quantitative data on the cargoes moving in and out of North Vietnam are incomplete. Estimates of seaborne exports and imports based on reasonably firm, although incomplete, data are presented in Tables 3 and 4.

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Approved For Release 2008/04/15 : CIA-RDP78T02095R000800070043-8

Table 2

North Vietnam: Foreign-Flag Ship Arrivals at Haiphong
by Flag
1964

Flag	Number of Arrivals	Gross Register Tons
Total	425	1,844,517
Free World	251	872,454
Denmark	2	6,822
Finland	1	5,661
France	1	2,878
Greece	27	197,426
Italy	2	14,361
Japan	30	75,574
Lebanon	12	68,590
Netherlands	10	21,855
Norway	38	94,888
Panama	6	34,243
Sweden	2	13,833
United Kingdom	116	318,897
West Germany	4	17,426
USSR	48	359,469
European Satellites	56	385,350
Czechoslovakia	7	45,498
East Germany	1	9,632
Poland	48	330,220
Communist China	70	227,244

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Approved For Release 2008/04/15 : CIA-RDP78T02095R000800070043-8

Table 3

North Vietnam: Seaborne Exports Carried by Foreign-Flag Ships
1964

Metric Tons

Commodity	Flag				
	Free World	USSR	European Satellites	Communist China	Total
Total	1,185,600	124,600	83,200	N.A.	1,393,400
Coal a/	825,400	6,600	10,200	N.A.	842,200
Apatite b/	219,700	33,600	34,000	N.A.	287,300
Cement b/	77,000	43,700	8,300	N.A.	129,000
Miscellaneous b/	63,500	40,700	30,700	N.A.	134,900

a. Out of Cam Pha and Hon Gay.
b. Almost exclusively out of Haiphong.

Table 4

North Vietnam: Seaborne Imports Carried by Foreign-Flag Ships
1964

Metric Tons

Commodity	Flag				
	Free World	USSR	European Satellites	Communist China	Total
Total	283,000	266,000	61,000	23,000	633,000
Maize, grains, and bulk foodstuffs	123,000	N.A.	19,000	20,000	162,000
Ammonium sulfate and other fertilizers	52,000	91,000	14,000	N.A.	157,000
POL	31,000	109,000	2,000	N.A.	142,000
Timber	11,000	N.A.	2,000	N.A.	13,000
Miscellaneous	66,000	66,000	24,000	3,000	159,000

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a. Exports

It is estimated that a minimum of 1.4 million metric tons of export cargoes moved out of North Vietnam by sea in 1964. About 60 percent of this tonnage is accounted for by coal moving out of the ports of Cam Pha and Hon Gay. The other major identifiable exports were apatite and cement, usually exported from the port of Haiphong. Free World shipping dominated the seaborne export trade of North Vietnam, carrying about 1.2 million of the 1.4 million metric tons exported during the year. Soviet-flag ships carried about 125,000 metric tons of export cargoes, while Satellite-flag shipping carried only about 83,000 metric tons.

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b. Imports

Estimates of seaborne import cargoes in 1964 show a minimum of identifiable imports of 633,000 metric tons. Imports of maize, grains, and bulk foodstuffs together accounted for 26 percent of the total, exceeding only slightly the volume of imports of fertilizers. The other major commodity import was petroleum, which amounted to 142,000 metric tons, or more than 22 percent of total seaborne imports.

The carriage of seaborne imports was more evenly distributed than the carriage of seaborne exports. Vessels flying Free World flags accounted for 45 percent of estimated seaborne imports, compared with 42 percent for Soviet-flag vessels. Soviet-flag vessels, however, did dominate the petroleum trade, accounting for 77 percent of the total petroleum seaborne imports. The small share -- 10 percent -- of the total seaborne imports carried by ships flying European Satellite flags was dominated by the large number of Polish-flag vessels calling at Haiphong as part of the Polish liner services to Far Eastern ports.

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Analyst:

Coord:

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